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THE VALLEY STAR

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Lonner's "Burnout" heats up exhibit
Art Gallery

Elite students are recognized
News

Monarchs spook the Owls late
Sports

VALLEY LIFELINE

First five years last a lifetime

■ Valley College is offering degrees and certificates in early education programs.

BY MELINDA HENRICKS
STAFF WRITER

Many students either have children or are planning to have children. As the old saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child." Researchers now understand that there is tremendous scope for shaping the brain in the early years of life. The past two decades revealed new information that allows parents the ability to promote healthier children with more self-confidence. Valley College programs reflect the epitome of these principles.

see *Develop* p. 2

TEAR DOWN THIS HALL

RICARDO VARELA / VALLEY STAR

CLEANING HOUSE - Valley students and staff paused to say goodbye to the original Field House and Weight Room Monday as the demolition crew retired the antiquated buildings to make room for the new Football Practice Field.

Monarchs being put on "Burn Notice"

■ Mara Lonner's "Burnout" exhibition is on display until April 28.

BY RICARDO VARELA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Large, semi-diaphanous black velvet art pieces hang like dead air, juxtaposed with smaller geometrically-abstract pieces in Mara Lonner's dual "Burnouts" and "Consequential Abstractions Series" exhibit featured at Valley College's Art Gallery.

The show is a love letter to contrast: the lush, tactile quality of velvet versus the smooth walls it hangs from; the empty feeling of staring into black fabric versus the clinical banality

see *Art* p. 4

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Dean's list students comprise a presidential delegation

■ Valley faculty, TAE, and the ASU honored students at the Spring 2016 Dean's Reception.

BY MELINDA HENRICKS
STAFF WRITER

The semi-annual Dean's Reception last Wednesday in Monarch Hall was an invitation-only, formal occasion that recognized students for their academic achievement. All 400 available seats were filled, yet many more attended. The event featured decorations, a keepsake brochure and an honors pin was given to the top 500 students that made the Dean's and President's Lists concurrently. College officials congratulated and encouraged the continued superior work of these students.

The standing-room-only ceremony, hosted and sponsored by Tau Alpha Epsilon and the Associated Student Union, opened with a speech from Valley College President Dr. Erika Endrijonas. She honored the dedication and fortitude required to become and remain a top-performing student.

"Excellence is a journey and discipline is the vehicle," Endrijonas said.

Full-time students with at least a 3.5 GPA in 12 or more units at Valley College, or part-time students with at least a 3.5 GPA in 6-11 units who have completed more than 12 cumulative units in residence are selected for the Dean's List.

Students who have been on the Dean's List for three consecutive semesters are selected to be on the President's Honor's List. In addition, all students with a 3.5 GPA or higher are eligible to be a member of the Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society for 2-year colleges, and Tau Alpha Epsilon, Valley's honor society.

In addition, students on the Dean's List, (approximately 1700 students), and those on the President's List, (500 students), will be listed on the glass-encased wall next to Monarch Hall.

Deans Dr. Elizabeth Negrete (Student Services) and Dr. Laurie Nalepa (Academic Affairs), as well as Professor Joshua Miller, president of the Academic Senate, congratulated students and spoke to the prominence of the honor. TAE and ASU presidents Wendy Sotelo and Erica Martel announced the ceremony. Florentino Manzano, Vice President of Student

see Dean's p. 2

RICARDO VARELA / VALLEY STAR

EXCELLENCE - Valley College President Erika Endrijonas congratulates a student on their inductance onto the honor roll.

Tree people unite

■ Eco Advocates Club, ASU, TreePeople and volunteers, helped maintain trees at the Urban Forestry Project.

RICARDO VARELA / VALLEY STAR

'MULCH' OBLIGED - Nineteen-year-old ASU Commissioner of Public Relations Llyod Lee, 21-year-old geography major Andrew Tahan and a volunteer dig up dirt around a tree in front of Valley College's library in preparation of pouring fresh mulch and water.

BY RICARDO VARELA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The vegetation populating Valley College's Fulton avenue entrance received fresh mulch, water and maintenance from more than 50 volunteers at Friday morning's Urban Forestry Project event hosted by the Eco Advocates Club.

Valley's Eco Advocates Club worked with LA-based nonprofit environmental advocacy organization TreePeople for two months to get the event hosted on campus. Some environmental studies and science classes offered extra credit for participating in the event, but it was open to the public.

"We've had a long-standing relationship with LAVC, mostly working with the Eco Advocates," TreePeople's Senior Manager of Forestry Projects Danny Carmichael said.

Volunteers gathered in front of the campus's Library & Academic Resource Center, where the group was split into maintenance and mapping crews. Ferrari, gave the maintenance crew a tree mulching and watering demonstration. She asked volunteers to pour at least 15 gallons of water onto each tree's roots after mulching, adding that trees often need more water than one realizes.

"The mulch was obtained completely free from the City of Los Angeles," Ferrari said. "It's composed of a blend of nitrogen,

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'Develop'

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While the debate about nature versus nurture continues, research shows that children are pre-wired to learn in a play-based environment. Finally, we have realized that children excel in a stress-free setting where they are able to play and make choices while neural connections attach. Although children advance in different stages, there are guidelines that help distinguish delays, and systems in place to help at an early stage if necessary.

Some parents or caregivers have tried to force learning issues on infants and toddlers causing confusion and stress. In fact, children may be able to memorize well, if pushed; however, this is not the way their brains work. The National Association of Young Children's Education recommends a low-stress environment with multiple opportunities and choices as an ideal way to identify a child's preferences, promote development, and evaluate progress.

Pre-school is a not what it used to be. There are now educational requirements that require degrees as well as intern hours for certification of teaches and workers. There are also certificates that can be achieved with early childhood education classes.

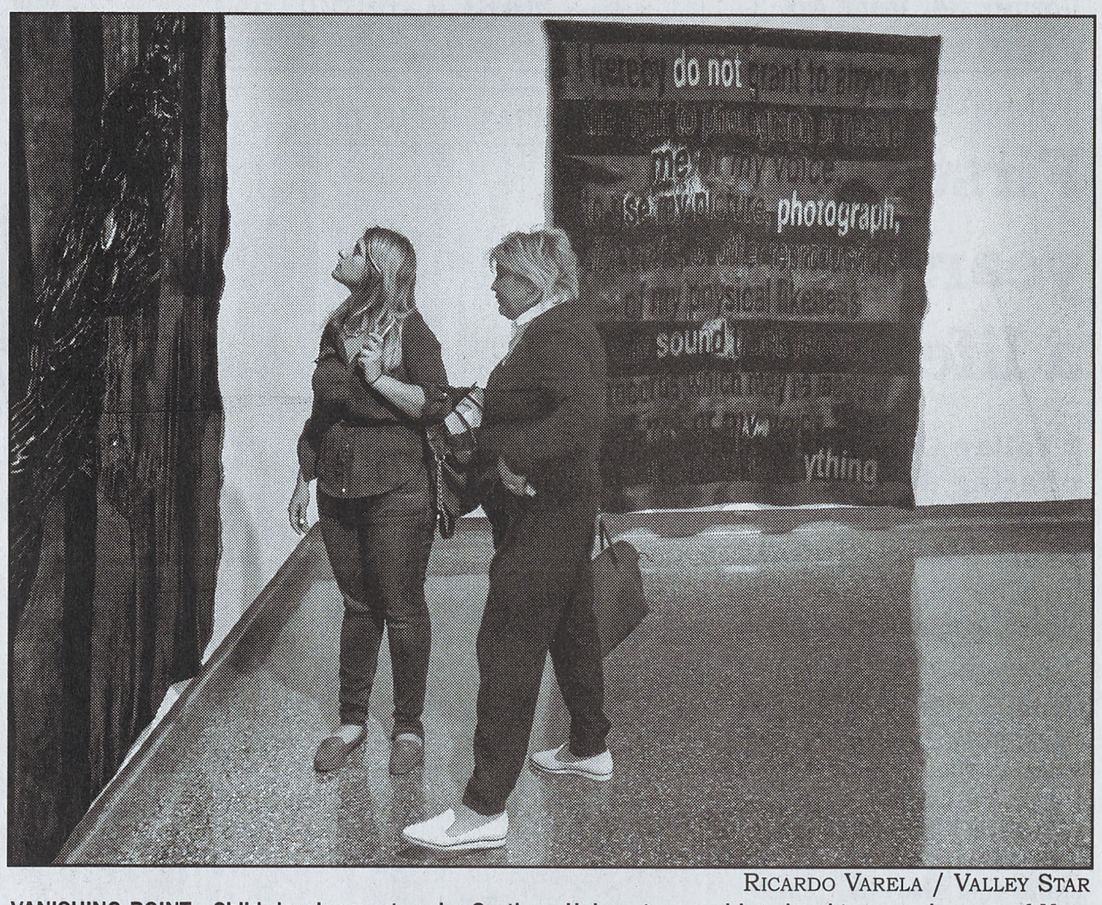
Other important aspects of early education are bonding and socialization. According to NAEYC, young children excel when they are in an environment where they can learn to share and communicate with their peers. Additionally, this is another methodology of evaluating a child's growth and progress. Scientists have concluded that the emerson of balanced opportunities will lead to early identification of problems or issues that infants and toddlers may experience. Teachers and workers are trained to assess and evaluate educational milestones. If a milestone is missed, a child may never be able to recover properly.

This is why we call the first five years of life the most important years in development. Early-childhood education has become a very popular choice for many students. The scope of the educational process includes knowledge of learning disabilities such as language and cognitive delays, as well as autism and other diagnosable delays or issues.

In case you had not noticed, we have a properly designed child development center here at Valley. The center was constructed as the brain child of the teachers and staff with the children in the center for both student evaluation and protection. The Child Development program is comprehensive. There are certificate programs for workers and teachers. There are also certificate programs for special needs children as well as infant and toddler care. There is a degree based curriculum for transferring students. In addition, there are an array of classes and services available to the students and the community. The classes offered for the community range from parenting and mommy and me to play dates where toddlers interact. There is a state-of-the-art pre-school with enrollment advantages for students. There is a waiting list and students should sign-up early. The child care center offers day and evening classes as well as balanced meals.

Consequently, the child development center has a fabulous reputation. In fact, many of the preeminent local pre-schools schools recruit workers from Valley College. So, if you have questions or needs, drop by or call and get information. You can also check out the child development website at lavc.edu/childdevelopment/index.aspx

ART GALLERY



RICARDO VARELA / VALLEY STAR

VANISHING POINT - Child development major Svetlana Hairapetyan and her daughter examine one of Mara Lonner's works from her "Burnouts" exhibition in Valley College's Art Gallery.

'Art'

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of white gallery walls; the inversion of the traditional use of negative space from black to white. All of this is a vehicle for the artist's storytelling, documenting loss, destruction and a general anxiety with modern life.

Lonner used the devoré technique to achieve this aesthetic. A base drawing is made onto mixed-fabric material, followed by the application of a sodium hydrogen sulphate gel, which dissolves the cellulose-based fibers and leaves the silk-based fibers intact. This creates translucent patches in the fabric through which light reveals the image itself.

Some of the works are physically imposing—the largest piece, "Destruction Burnout (Landscape 01 Joplin)" measures 18 feet, 2 inches wide and 7 feet, 8 inches high. It depicts the wreckage left by a 2011 tornado that ripped through Joplin, Missouri, killing 158. This piece leaves the viewer feeling both the heft of the human and economic loss, while its scope makes the viewer feel small.

Conversely, Lonner's "Consequential Abstracts Series" features smaller works that act as whispers between their larger brethren. The leftover material from "Burnouts" was used to create the graphite-on-paper works, with "Burnouts" fibers adhered over the sketches. The fibers glisten in the gallery's light, giving an otherwise two-dimensional piece added depth. They serve to continue the motif of line, which looms behind many of the "Burnouts" works, and ties both series together.

"When making the velvet drawings, a large amount of fugitive fibers are released and displaced throughout the studio," Lonner said. "The 'Consequential Abstraction Series' captures a portion of these process remnants on prepared paper mounted on panels. These panels are covered with objects found in and around the space where I am working. When the velvet drawing is completed, the objects are removed from the panels, and the fibers that remain are fixed to the surface. Material that could be lost is repurposed into another work as a consequence of the capture."

Artist Mara Lonner lives and works in Los Angeles. She earned both her bachelor and master of fine arts degrees from the California Institute of the Arts, and creates work both from self-generated ideas and public commissions. Lonner is currently completing work on a glass pavilion for Metro's Crenshaw/MLK station.

"Burnouts" and "Consequential Abstractions Series" are on display until April 28. Valley's Art Gallery hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. The gallery will be closed during Cesar Chavez Day and spring break. For more information, visit lavc.edu/arts/artgallery or call 818-778-5536.

'Dean's'

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Services and many faculty members and staff were also in attendance.

Students were invited to speak during a segment of the ceremony. One student discussed his plight with homelessness and his ability to overcome the odds. Another student revealed his battle with cancer and chemotherapy while attending college. Yet another paid homage to their favorite Valley professors. Each student has their own educational perspective, but they all share a similar goal.

"I dedicate a lot of time to studying," sophomore and law student Marco Diaz said. To this end, he stated that he utilizes the library and the writing center.

"The writing center and tutoring have been a tremendous help," Colombian-born sophomore Gayne Aleksanyan said, as she struggles with a language barrier. Her son attended and brought her roses.

The ceremony concluded with the president's honor students being called to receive a handshake and a pin. Many students had their pictures taken with Endrijonas after the ceremony, as well as other school officials. Refreshments were served to students and their families on the adjacent patio.

Valley has made tutoring and student services a top priority to help students with any educational struggles they face.

"Hours have been added to student services to assist students that have difficulty making it during the week," Endrijonas said. This was a priority for her as well as "extending hours during the week."

Students can visit Valley's tutoring information website at www.lavc.edu/tutor/index.aspx for more information on the Writing Center, the Math Lab and additional resources.

For additional content please visit:
www.thevalleystar.com

'Trees'

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potassium and phosphorus."

Twenty-one-year-old Eco Advocates member and environmental science major Anahi Rizo shoveled mulch into buckets that were being distributed to other volunteers from the visitor parking lot.

"The trees are getting a spa day today," Rizo said.

The landscape in front of the LARC needed upkeep. Several trees' bark exhibited gashes from tree ties, and volunteers discovered a variety of trash and some plants were dried out.

"Seeing unmulched trees is like, 'Oh my god!'" TreeMapLA coordinator Virdiana Auger-Velez said. "It's great that people are invested in the care of the natural beauty that is here."

Carmichael and Auger-Velez taught the mapping crew to use the TreeMapLA app. Volunteers added each tree's trunk circumference, species and location to a map in the application, where a virtual catalog of the campus's mapped trees can be browsed through. The app services the entire Los Angeles region, and the mapping data added on Friday advanced the Eco Advocates eventual goal of documenting the entire campus.

TreeMapLA keeps a running tally of each tree's energy conservation, air quality benefits, storm water retention and how much carbon dioxide it has retained based on the information input by mappers.

"We're using it as a community engagement tool, as well as an educational tool," Carmichael said. "It's good for people who walk around their neighborhood and say to themselves, 'I've always wondered what that tree was.'"

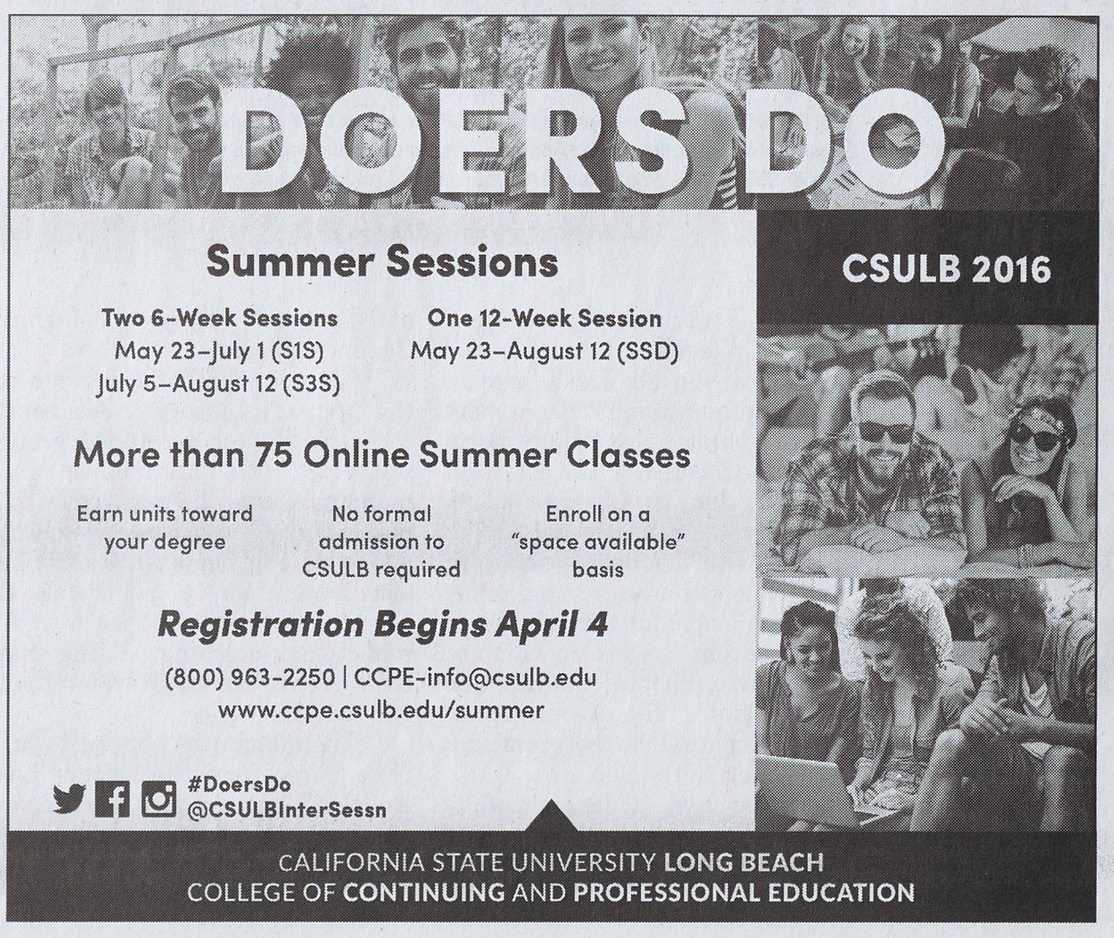
Volunteers mulched and mapped until 11:30 a.m. when the bulk of the work was completed. Eco Advocates and ASU members, as well as Ferrari, stayed a few minutes longer to gather excess foliage and to make cosmetic changes to the landscaping. Valley's facilities department provided bins for the refuse, which they later hauled away.

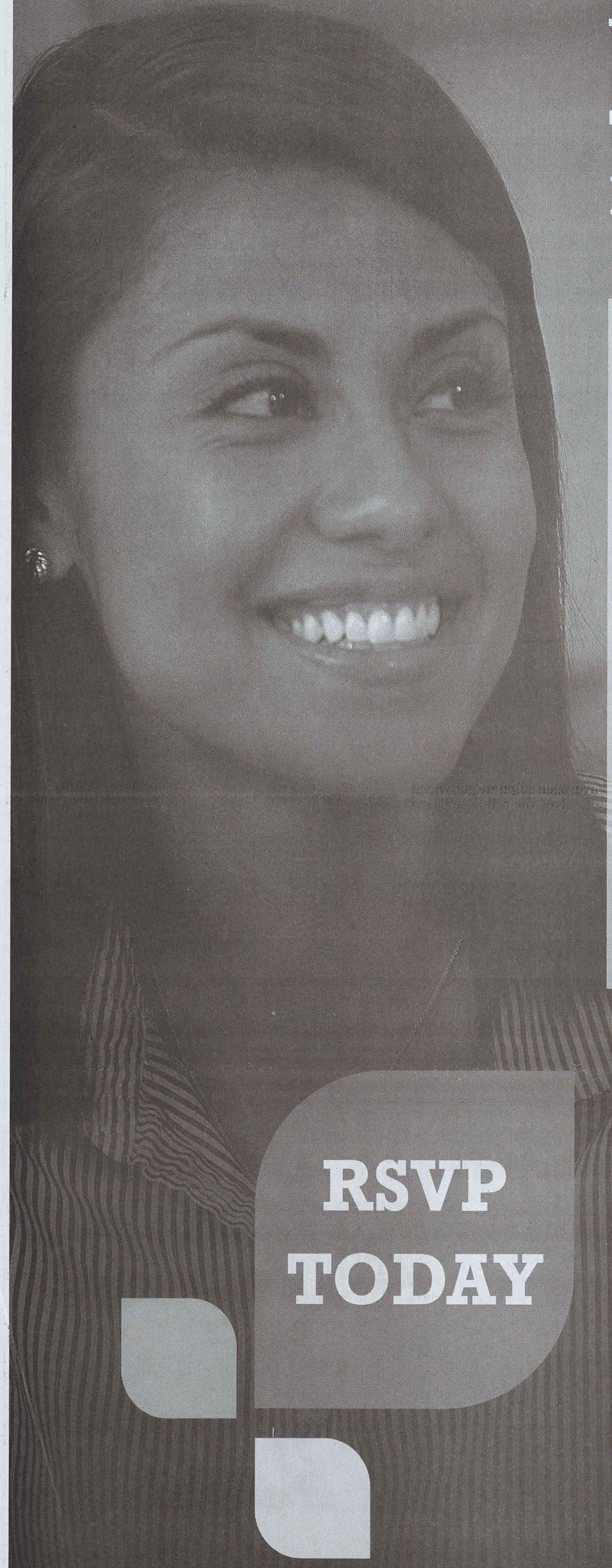
"Everything seemed to go well, better than I expected," Eco Advocates' president Adrian Covarrubias said. "I'd like to build a culture of student learning and community building on campus. I'm really excited for Arbor Day. We're giving away scholarships in an art contest."

Cal Fire, California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, provided funding for the event via a grant to TreePeople; Trader Joe's and Whole Foods Market provided additional funding for the event.

"Cal Fire has a generous urban forestry program," Carmichael said. "They provided the initial grants to build and expand TreeMapLA."

Valley is the only community college in California to hold the designation of Tree Campus USA from the Arbor Day Foundation, which it was awarded in March 2012, retroactive to 2011. The Arbor Day Foundation press release announcing this states that, "Los Angeles Valley College achieved the designation by meeting the required five core standards for sustainable campus forestry: a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects."





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SOFTBALL

Lady Monarchs break even at home on clutch play

■Valley splits doubleheader vs. Citrus College Tuesday, pushing their conference record to 6-3.

BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

DOUBLE, CLUTCH - Sophomore Cristina Colon pulled a line-drive to right field for the walk-off RBI double in the 10th inning vs. Citrus College in the second game of a doubleheader Tuesday afternoon. The Lady Monarchs are now 2-1 to start a nine-game homestand.

BY HENRY GUEMBES
STAFF WRITER

As the sky began to cloud late Tuesday afternoon, so did the Lady Monarchs chances at splitting a home doubleheader against Citrus College.

After losing the early game 7-1, Valley found themselves nearly down and out again as they trailed 7-6 in the bottom of the 10th inning with two out, and bases loaded.

Then sophomore Cristina Colon stepped to the plate with only one thing on her mind.

"I saw runners on base, and I knew it was my time," said Colon.

And that it was.

With the count at 2-1, Cristina Colon sent a line-drive ball to right field sending two runners home to clinch the win. Her game-winning RBI double pushed Valley's record to 10-14 (6-3) on the season.

A major factor that aided Valley in the second match was their ability to capitalize on Citrus College's six errors that allowed multiple runners to advance on base. The more errors the Owls made, the more the Monarchs grew into the game. According to Head Coach Frankie Garcia, "confidence" was key.

After the first matchup, Garcia took her girls to left field and addressed what hurt them in game one; whatever she expressed to her players ignited that confidence that translated into a meaningful result

In the first game however, the Monarchs struggled to get a barrel on the ball, as they were only able to register 5 hits to the Owl's 10. The third inning was crucial for Citrus College's triumph in the initial matchup, as they piled on 5 runs to extend their lead to 7-0. Although the bats were cold for Valley in their first meeting, the second leg saw them record 12 hits to Citrus's 10.

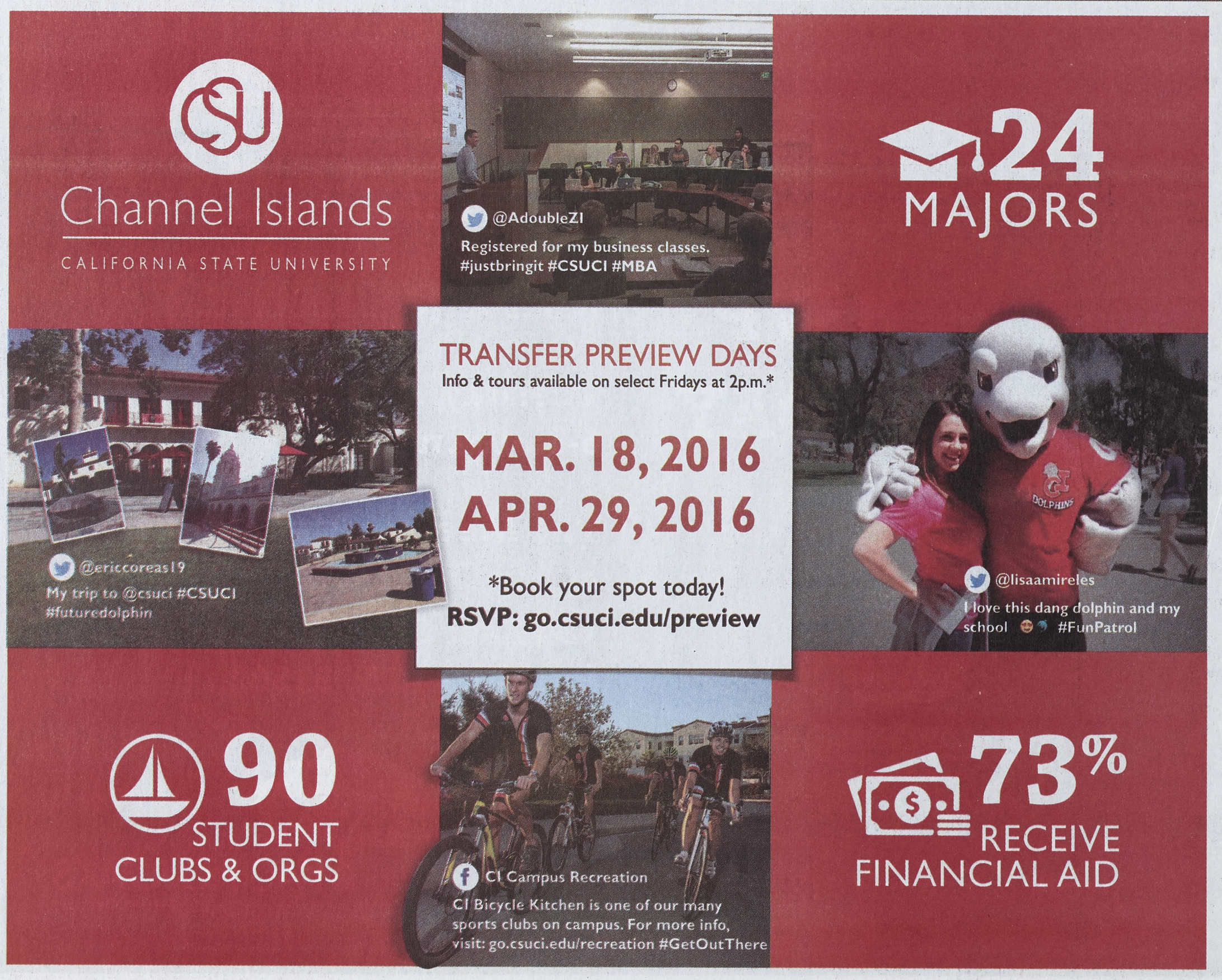
The Lady Monarchs went on a sweltering streak in the ninth and tenth inning of the second game, scoring 6 huge runs that led them to their big victory.

"This game speaks volumes to me about the kind of athletes that we have here," said Garcia. "We have grown immensely from day one."

With a positive record so far in conference, they will look to continue to ride this emotional wave further into conference play.

"We work extremely hard—we do for every opponent," said Garcia. "We're in conference now so every practice matters."

The Lady Monarchs are back in action Thursday at home vs. the College of the Canyons and on April 5 in a home doubleheader.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